Government regarding defence land in Seeunderabad Cantonment and Hyderabad under encroachments;

(b) if so, whether amicable settlement for exchange of the defence land with the State Government on 'land to land' basis has been reached; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) As per existing Defence Land Policy, transfer of Defence land is based on the principle of "exchange of land at equivalent value" and NOT on "land to land" basis. The State Government was intimated about this fact in September 1997.

Coastal defence

1106. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state the steps taken to enhance coastal defence to cambat antisubversive activities and protect the country's economic interest at sea?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): India Navy Coast Guard carry out regular surveillance and patrol to protect the interest of the country. In this regard, special operations in coordination with other Central and State Government agencies are also carried out. The hardware, equipment and resources of the Navy and the Coast Guard are reviewed and updated from time to time.

Strategy for National Security

1107. SHRI NARENDRA MOHAN: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Naval Chief has expressed his apprehensions about the failure at the intelligence level and has called for effective integration of civilian and military strengths in this vital area while evolving a national security strategy, as reported in the Telegraph, dated the 12th October, 1998; and

(b) if so, what action Government propose to take especially in view of prevailing belligerent environment?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b) From time to time Government receives assessments from the armed forces and other agencies about more effective gathering and optimal use of intelligence data. Appropriate agencies of the Government analyse such suggestions with a view to furthering the interests of national security.

Budgetary allocations for Indian Armed Forces

1108. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the allocation of funds made in the General Budgets for 1997-98 and 1998-99 for various projects for all the three wings of Indian Armed Forces were adequate;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith amount spent (year-wise), till date;

(c) whether price hike in petroleum and other essential commodities as well as inflation have adversely affected the actual defence expenditure; and

(d) if so, the what extent and the incentives/facilities Government propose to give to soldiers posted at high altitude in Kashmir and China borders?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b) Allocation on of funds for the Armed Forces is adequate keeping in view the current committed liabilities and prioritised new acquisitions, year-wise expenditure/allocation on capital schemes is as under:

	Rs. in crores
1997-98 1998-99 (BE)	7660.40 8762.36

(c) No Sir.

(d) Incentives/facilities given to soldiers posted at high altitude in Kashmir and China borders include monetary concessions like Siaehen allowance, High Altitude (uncongenial climate) area allowance and non-monetary concessions such as speedy rotation of troops, special extrems cold clothing items, appropriate shelter, modern communication systems and high caloric diet.

पश्चिमी भारत में नौसैनिक अड्डा स्थापित करने प्रस्ताव

(क) क्या सरकार ने पश्चिमी भारत के किसी स्थान पर "सी बर्ड नौसैनिक अड्डा" स्थापित करने के किसी प्रस्ताव पर गंभीरता से विचार किया हैं,

(ख) क्या महाराष्ट्र और गुजरात को राज्य सरकारों द्वारा सरकार को कोई व्यापक प्रस्ताव प्रेषित किये गये हैं,

(ग) यदि हां, तो इस संबंध में सरकार की क्या प्रतिक्रिया हैं तथा किस स्थान पर ऐसा अड्डा बनाया जायेगा, और

(घ) क्या सरकार ने पश्चिमी भारत के विशाल समुद्री तट को ध्यान में रखते हुए उक्त प्रस्ताव को स्वीकार कर लिया हैं और यदि नहीं, तो इसके क्या कारण हैं ?

रक्षा मंत्री (श्री जॉर्ज फर्नान्डीज) : (क) से (घ) सरकार ने भारत के पश्चिमी तट पर कर्नाटक राज्य के कारोबार क्षेत्र में एक नौसैना जैसे "सी बर्ड" स्थापित करने के प्रस्ताव को अनुमोदित कर दिया हैं और यह स्थापित किए जाने की प्रक्रिया में हैं ।

Allotment of arms etc. to the cadets

1110. SARDAR GURCHARAN SINGH TOHRA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the criteria for the allotment of Arms, Services, Regiments and Units to the Gentleman Cadets of various Officers Training Establishments since early days of Independence (or in the British Indian Army) have been competence and merit,

(b) if so, whether there has been a devisation from this criteria effected through specific dircctions/instructions of Army Headquarters laying down guidelines or restrictions relating to one particular religion or a few particular communities; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (c) The criteria for the allotment of Arms/Services, Regiment/Unit to the Gentlemen Cadets has always been performance and competence. Cadets high in merit (varying from 2% to 10% of the top) have always been given their first choice.

The cadets under the present system arc allocated to Arms/Services/Regimcnt/Battalion based on the principle of equitable distribution of calibre, age profile, qualifications and class composition. Cadets in the first 2.5% of the order of Merit get their first choice. There is no separate yardstick for allocation of Arms/ Services to Cadets of any particular community/class. Due to this a cadet from a particular community/class can be commissioned to the Regiment of another community/class. An equitable distribution with an eye on "National Integration" is also kept in view. This policy strictly follows the principle of equality of opportunity to candidates of all classes.

Preference to small scale units in the CSD

1111. SHRI YERRA NARAYANASWAMY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any effort has been made to give assistance and preference to small scale units in the Canteen Stores Department (CSD);

(b) if so, what preference is shown to goods and products originating from the small scale sector;

(c) whether any financial incentives are given to goods from the small scale sector; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b) Canteen Stores Department purchases items for sale to the troops and